

oping and developed countries. The study revealed that the scope of patenting is varied in nature among countries and it mainly covers the use of micro-organisms. Biotechnological advances provide potential for patenting processes and products. The Indian Patents Act, 1970 excludes patentability of biological living products and materials. In order to evolve a satisfactory patenting provision in biotechnology for India, the Committee obtained the views of various public interest groups and industrial bodies in the country on inventions related to life forms. The work of the Committee is in progress.

[English]

Construction of Road under Dacoit Liquidation Scheme in Madhya Pradesh

4572. SHRIMATISUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received proposal from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for according approval to the construction of 14 roads in the first phase and the construction of 61 roads in the second phase under the Dacoit Liquidation Scheme in 1984 and 1985 respectively; and

(b) the stage at which the matter of according financial approvals to them stands at present and the likely time to be taken in giving approval to all the estimates of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) and (b). Under the Scheme for construction of roads in dacoity prone areas, estimates for construction of 14 roads in first phase and 61 roads in second phase had been included in the project report of the Government of

Madhya Pradesh. Out of these, 14 roads including one from the second phase have been approved in 1985-86 and 1986-87 as per proposals sent by the State Government. All the works are in progress. A proposal for construction of another 10 roads was also received from Government of Madhya Pradesh. Administrative approval could not be accorded to the 10 roads due to unsatisfactory progress of works already sanctioned and for want of necessary clarification by the State Government. This scheme is proposed to be transferred to the state sector in 1992-93.

[Translation]

Linking of Tribal Areas with Metallic Roads

4573. SHRIMATISUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received cost estimates (Rs. 119.00 crores, year 1983) for granting technical and financial approval in regard to connect growth centres of tribal areas in Madhya Pradesh with the metallic roads;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have accorded financial approval to the said estimates; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UTTAMBHAI H. PATEL): (a) to (c). A Master Plan for construction of roads at an estimated cost of Rs. 199.22 crores was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh in 1983. The State Government was, at that time, requested to send specific proposals in this regard. In 1983-84, the State Government sent proposals for the

following 3 works which were approved by the Government of India, Ministry of Ship-

ping and Transport:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Work	Sanctioned Cost
1. Achankmar - Keonchi Road	192.27
2. 6 bridges & approaches on Madwas Kushmi Road	170.04
3. Madwas-Kushmi-Runda-Bhadura Road.	46.35

[English]

Modalities for Disinvestment

4574. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government have chalked out the modalities for disinvestment of holdings in public sector enterprises;

(b) if so, the amount likely to be generated from disinvestment;

(c) the procedure to be adopted by institutional and individual investors to acquire holdings in public sector enterprises due to disinvestment;

(d) whether the Government have given directions to get these equities and trading in different stock exchanges; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. T. JUNGON): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have worked out modalities for disinvestment of holdings in PSEs during 1991-92.

(b) Government have generated Rs.

3038 crores from sale of Public Sector Undertaking shares during 1991-92.

(c) The disinvestment was done in the form of bundles by following the procedure of bidding in which public sector financial/investment institutions, Mutual Funds and Merchant Banks participated.

(d) and (e). Shares of such public sector undertakings are being listed on all principal stock exchanges in the country.

Prompt Payment of Dues Act

4575. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Prompt Payment of Dues Act during the current session;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of small scale units which are not being made prompt payment by the larger industrial houses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). In the Policy Meas-